

# THE WILSON BULLETIN.

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A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.  
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

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PUBLISHED BY THE CLUB, AT OBERLIN, OHIO.

Price in the United States, Canada and Mexico, 50 cents a year, 15 cents a number, post-paid. Price in all countries in the International Postal Union, 65 cents a year, 20 cents a number. Subscriptions may be sent to Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio, or to Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Penn.

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## EDITORIAL.

The response to the call for more local lists is highly gratifying. We have in prospect for succeeding numbers several interesting lists from little known localities which will be contributions to our knowledge of distribution, of which we stand in need. If this number of the BULLETIN reaches any person who lives in some outlying region, or in some region whose bird inhabitants have not received deserved attention, let it be the means of setting you to work compiling such a list. But bear constantly in mind that it is not the length of the list which is of the most importance, but rather the accuracy of the identifications. Be certain of each identification, or else relegate uncertain records to the Hypothetical list.

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While we are earnestly calling for local lists, because such work is usually the work which first attracts bird students, we would not wish to give the impression that the compilation of a local list is the most important work before you in bird study. We have so many times reiterated the importance of life studies that it must be to some "as dry as Niagara." Go over your own experience in trying to find in the literature on birds the corroboration of some of your own observations, and then ask yourself how much remains to be done in life studies. Remember that both the editor and Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa., are anxious to supply everybody who will undertake life studies of however little seeming importance with blanks for recording the facts learned. Plan to use several of these blanks the coming spring.

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Unusual field activity during November has resulted in the finding of several species of birds which have not hitherto been recorded in

northern Ohio before late December or early January. This seems to presage an unusual southward movement of northern birds for this winter, not only in Ohio, but the country over, since Ohio is the key state in this respect as well as in politics. We feel confident that activity in the field during this winter will result in the finding of many unusual birds. Let us have your winter experiences in time for the March BULLETIN.

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It has been a constant regret to the editor that the department of General Notes has been so lacking for the last two years. In every observer's experience in the field there must be many things of interest which cannot well be worked into an article. These minor matters, as far as length of exposition is concerned, are therefore lost to others because they do not find their way into print. This ought not so to be. Send them in without waiting for the time for making up the copy for the next BULLETIN to come. Fresh experiences from your field work are what enliven the pages of the BULLETIN.

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For the sake of getting this number of the BULLETIN out promptly the result of the election of officers for 1907 will not be announced in it, as has been the custom, but will be deferred until the March number. It is always necessary to hold the BULLETIN over for a week or more in order to receive the result of the balloting.

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

CUPOLA, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. In the early morning of July 11, it was rather foggy. Insect life was evidently not very high minded that morning, as the Barn Swallows were skimming low over the fields and apparently had to hustle for what food they secured. I was bringing the cows in from pasture, and was a little surprised to see a Barn Swallow fly up to one of them, snatch a fly from her back, and then skim over the fields.

One morning I was attracted by a great commotion among some Robins, and going to ascertain the cause I found a nest of this species, which was placed upon a horizontal branch of a willow. It was evident that there was something wrong about this nest, since the pair of Robins were flying about it and making a great noise. As I could see nothing from the ground below I climbed to the level of the nest and there came upon the offender. A red squirrel sat upon an adjoining branch holding a Robin's egg in his paws, coolly sucking it. I had long known this mammal to be called a nest robber, but here he was caught in the act.